

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract at page 20, lines 1-10, with the following Abstract:

ABSTRACT

A noise suppressor (8) suppresses noise contained in speech converted by an A/D converter (2) into a digital signal. A sidetone level controller (9) controls a level of a speech signal with the noise suppressed by the noise suppressor (8), for output as a sidetone. A D/A converter (15) then converts a speech receiving signal with the sidetone added from a digital signal to an analog signal. Therefore, it becomes possible to prevent a level of the sidetone from being changed according to a level of the noise existing in the background of a talker, and to control the sidetone to allow the talker to talk at an appropriate volume.